

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05

NRC-05 /097 W

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1851

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 218

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK BY POUCH

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0576

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD NOVEMBER

15-21

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT THE NOVEMBER 9 INFORMAL SESSION

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OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS, EASTERN

REPS PLACED MAJOR EMPHASIS ON THEIR PROPOSAL THAT PARTICIPANTS AGREE NOT TO INCREASE THEIR MILITARY MANPOWER IN THE AREA WHILE NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDERWAY. WESTERN REPS EXPLAINED WHY A NO-INCREASE COMMITMENT HAD TO BE TIED TO A SATISFACTORY REDUCTION AGREEMENT. AT THE NOVEMBER 18 PLENARY MEETING, BULGARIAN REP. DICHEV STRESSED THE NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS AND THE UTILITY OF THE DISBANDMENT PROVISION OF THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE NOVEMBER 9 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, EASTERN REPS CITED RECENT REMARKS MADE BY WILLY BRANDT AT A MEETING IN AMSTERDAM OF EUROPEAN SOCIALIST PARTIES AS EVIDENCE OF INTEREST IN THE WEST IN THE POSSIBILITY THAT PARTICIPANTS COULD AGREE NOT TO INCREASE THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THEIR ARMED FORCES IN THE REDUCTION AREA FOR THE DURATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THEY ARGUED THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD BE A PRACTICAL BAR TO THE ARMS RACE IN CENTRAL EUROPE, MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL DETENTE, PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE FOR SIMILAR MEASURES BY NON-PARTICIPANTS IN THE VIENNA TALKS, CONTRIBUTE GENERALLY TO AN ATMOSPHERE OF EAST-WEST CONFIDENCE, AND FAVORABLY AFFECT THE COURSE OF THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS. EASTERN REPS FURTHER ARGUED THAT A FORMULA COULD BE FOUND WHICH DID NOT REQUIRE AGREED DATA AND WOULD NEITHER CONTRACTUALIZE THE EXISTING EAST-WEST MANPOWER RELATIONSHIP NOR IMPOSE NATIONAL CEILINGS. WESTERN REPS REVIEWED THE REASONS WHY A NO-INCREASE COMMITMENT COULD ONLY BE MADE IN CONNECTION WITH A SATISFACTORY REDUCTION AGREEMENT AND SHOULD NOT BE TREATED AS A SEPARATE ISSUE ISOLATED FROM THE MAIN TASK OF NEGOTIATING REDUCTIONS.

3. EASTERN REPS ALSO STRESSED AGAIN THE NEED TO INCLUDE AIR FORCES IN REDUCTIONS AND REPEATED STANDARD CRITICISMS OF THE WESTERN COLLECTIVE CEILING CONCEPT. WESTERN REPS HIGHLIGHTED THE ADVANTAGES OF THE MIXED-PACKAGE APPROACH AS AN EFFECTIVE MEANS FOR DEALING WITH A COMPLEX SITUATION IN AN EQUITABLE WAY. THEY RECALLED WHY THE WEST BELIEVED THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD FOCUS ON GROUND FORCES AND UNDERLINED THE COMPROMISE

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NATURE OF THE DECEMBER 16 WESTERN PROPOSALS.

4. BULGARIAN REP DICHEV MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT GIVEN AT THE NOVEMBER 18 PLENARY MEETING. HIS PRESENTATION DWELT ON THE REQUIREMENT FOR COMPREHENSIVE ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON NUCLEAR ELEMENTS, AND ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DISBANDMENT PROVISION OF THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL IN

SAFEGUARDING THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF FLANK PARTICIPANTS.
DICHEV'S STATEMENT INCLUDED AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE
CONCEPT THAT IT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO PROGRESS IN THE TALKS TO
IDENTIFY THOSE AREAS WHERE THERE WAS THE GREATEST
LIKELIHOOD OF REACHING AGREEMENT. RESOR

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